



Town of Rockport
Fall Town Meeting
September 12, 2022
Rockport High School Gymnasium

Registered Voters: 6128

Attendance: 268

Commenced: 5:40pm

Dissolved: 9:01pm

THE TOWN MODERATOR, ROBERT VISNICK, Opened the meeting.

The town recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

REVEREND, KAREN WADE, of St. Mary's Church in Rockport: Delivered the invocation.

The Town Moderator made a motion to omit the reading of the articles in the warrant, which was moved and seconded, voted on and carried unanimously.

The Town Moderator introduced the newly appointed Assistant Town Clerk, Kourtney Buchanan.

THE TOWN CLERK, MELANIE WADDELL, read the officers return on the warrant.

The Moderator explained the rules of procedure of the meeting, and called the order of articles as they are related.

B, A and F.

C through E and then all the bylaw articles.

In this order I, N, J, K, L, and M.

Then G.

The Chair entertained a motion under article B.

ARTICLE 1. (B)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or appropriate and transfer, a sum or sums of money to add to the appropriations made under Articles 5, 5A, 5B, 5C, 6, 6A and/or 6B of the April 2, 2022 Annual Town Meeting or to reduce appropriations made thereunder; or act on

anything relative thereto. (Board of Selectmen) (Requires majority vote)

Motion: TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, MITCHELL VIEIRA: Dwight Valentine moves that the Town amends the votes taken under articles 5, 5A, 5B, 5C, 6, 6A and or 6B of the April 2nd 2022 Annual Town Meeting by transferring the sums set forth in the September 13th 2022 Fall Town Meeting voters booklet for article B motion on page 39 and the amounts and for the purposes specified therein. Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee support this article.

TOWN CLERK, MELANIE WADDELL: Seconded.

MODERATOR: Moved and seconded.

Amount	From	To
\$110,000	Bedrock Well Capital	Police Generator Replacement Capital
\$13,000	Unappropriated State Aid	Ambulance Reserve
\$30,000	Unappropriated State Aid	Property/Casualty Insurance
\$12,000	Unappropriated State Aid	Forest Fire Other Equipment
\$5,000	Unappropriated State Aid	Finance Committee Reserve
\$15,740	Police Vehicle Maint	Garage Vehicle Maint
\$16,709	Fire Vehicle Maint	Garage Vehicle Maint
\$400	Forest Fire Vehicle Maint	Garage Vehicle Maint
\$650	Animal Control Vehicle Maint	Garage Vehicle Maint
\$4,056	Ambulance Vehicle Maint	Garage Vehicle Maint

ACTION: The motion was seconded, there was no discussion and the motion carried with a vote of **161 in favor and 13 opposed**.

ARTICLE 2 (A).

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, or appropriate and transfer, a sum of money to pay unpaid bills of previous fiscal years; or act on anything relative thereto. (Board of Selectmen) (Requires 9/10 vote)

Motion: TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Mr. Moderator, Selectmen Chair Ross Bracket moves that the Town appropriate and transfer the sums set forth in the September 12th, 2022 Fall Town Meeting voters booklet for article A on pages 38. All for the purpose of paying unpaid bills and adjustments from the previous fiscal year Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee support this article.

TOWN CLERK: Seconded.

MODERATOR: Moved and seconded.

Amount	From	Vendor
\$1,826.20	Fire Department – IS&T Operating	ESO Software
\$168.90	Granite Pier – Operating Expense	Wolf Hill Garden Center/Michael Tupper
\$11,000.17	Forest Fire – Other Equipment	National Fire Fighter Corp.
\$11,593.14	DPW – Snow & Ice Expense	Morton Salt

Action: The motion was seconded, there was no discussion and the motion carried with **181 in favor and 5 opposed.**

ARTICLE 3 (F).

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from available funds a sum of money to fund the cost items contained in the initial year of the collective bargaining agreements between the Town of Rockport and the following unions: AFSCME Council 93 Local 1679 Supervisors & Foremen Unit and AFSCME Council 93 Local 1679 General Unit; with the agreements covering the term of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025; or act on anything relative thereto. (Board of Selectmen) (requires majority vote)

Motion: TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Mr. Moderator, Selectman Sarah Wilkinson moves that the Town appropriate and confirm the sum of \$74,170 that was previously appropriated to the labor reserve account to fund the labor costs for the first year of the collective bargaining agreements between the town of Rockport and AFSCME Council 93 Local 1679 supervisors and foreign unit and general unit and to designate that the sum of \$35,569 will come from taxation the sum of \$26,627 will come from the water enterprise and the sum of \$11,974 will come from the sewer enterprise Board of Selectmen and finance committee support this article.

TOWN CLERK: Seconded.

MODERATOR: Moved and seconded.

Action: The motion was seconded, there was no discussion and the motion **carried unanimously** by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 4 (C).

To see if the Town will hear and receive the annual report and recommendations of the Community Preservation Committee pursuant to Section 5 of Chapter 44B of the General Laws and Chapter 2, Section 5(d)(ii) of the Code of By-laws; or act on anything relative thereto. (Community Preservation Committee) (Requires majority vote)

Motion: TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Mr. Moderator CPC chair Phil Crotty moves that the Town hear and received the report of the community preservation committee Board of Selectmen and community preservation committee support this article.

TOWN CLERK: Seconded.

MODERATOR: Moved and seconded.

PHILLIP CROTTY: Describes the Community Preservation Committee recommendations.

TOBY ARSENIAN, 95 Granite Street. Voiced his objection to the sums of money and intends to vote against article C.

Action: The motion was seconded, there was some discussion and the **motion carried by a majority.**

ARTICLE 5 (D).

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to Section 6 of Chapter 44B of the General Laws, to set aside in the Community Preservation Fund sums of money from Community Preservation Fund FY2023 estimated annual revenues for later spending for the respective purposes indicated:

First, a sum of money to be deposited in the Community Housing Reserve Account;

First Motion: TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Mr. Moderator, first motion under article D. CPC chair Phil Crotty moves that \$83,000 be transferred from FY 23 estimated annual revenues of the Community Preservation Fund to the Community Preservation Fund community housing reserve account Board of Selectmen and Community Preservation Committee support this motion.

TOWN CLERK: Seconded.

MODERATOR: Moved and seconded.

Action: The motion was seconded, there was no discussion and the motion **carried with 155 in favor and 46 opposed.**

Second, a sum of money to be deposited in the Open Space/Recreation Reserve Account;

Second Motion: TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Mr. Moderator, second motion, CPC Chair Phil Crotty moves at \$83,000 be transferred from FY 23 estimated annual revenues of the Community Preservation Fund to the Community Preservation fund open space and recreation reserve account Board of Selectmen and Community Preservation Committee support this motion.

TOWN CLERK: Seconded.

MODERATOR: Moved and seconded.

Action: The motion was seconded, there was no discussion and the **motion carried with 180 in favor and 26 opposed.**

Third, a sum of money to be deposited in the Historic Preservation Reserve Account;

Third Motion: TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Mr. Moderator CPC chair Phil Crotty moves that \$83,000 be transferred from FY 23 estimated annual revenues of the community preservation fund to the community preservation fund historic preservation reserve account Board of Selectmen and community preservation committee support this article.

TOWN CLERK: Seconded.

MODERATOR: Moved and seconded.

Action: The motion was seconded, there was no discussion and the **motion carried with 173 in favor and 30 opposed.**

ARTICLE 6 (E).

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from the Community Preservation Fund or by borrowing the following amounts for the respective purposes indicated:

First, \$40,000 to be expended under the direction of the Director of Public Works and DPW Commissioners working with the Community Preservation Committee, to study options for the restoration, rehabilitation, and preservation of Bradley Wharf;

First Motion: TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Mr. Moderator, first motion CPC Vice Chair Ruth George moves that \$40,000 be appropriated and transferred from the community preservation open space and recreation reserve account to be expended under the direction of the director of public works and DPW commissioners working with the Community Preservation Committee to study options for the restoration, rehabilitation and or preservation of Bradley wharf. Board of Selectmen and Community Preservation Committee support this article.

RUTH GEORGE: Describes the action of the application for Bradley Wharf.

TOWN CLERK: Seconded.

MODERATOR: Moved and seconded.

Action: The motion was seconded, there was no discussion and the **motion carried with 191 in favor and 23 opposed.**

Second, \$239,000 to be expended under the direction of the Director of Public Works and DPW Commissioners, working with the Community Preservation Committee, for the restoration, rehabilitation, and preservation of Evans Field, including the bleachers;

Second Motion TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Mr. Moderator CPC Vice Chair Ruth George moves that \$239,000 be appropriated and transferred from the community preservation community open space and recreation reserve account to be expended under the direction of the Director of Public Works and DPW Commissioners working with the Community Preservation Committee for the restoration rehabilitation and preservation of Evans field including the bleachers. Board of Selectmen and Community Preservation Committee support this article.

RUTH GEORGE: Describes the rehab, restoration and preservation of Evans Field.

TOWN CLERK: Seconded.

MODERATOR: Moved and seconded.

DANIEL O'DONNELL: 52 Main Street. Questioned how the committee arrived at the said amount of money and what exactly will be done.

RUTH GEORGE replied that most of the money will go to the grand stand.

SARA WILKINSON: From the Board of Selectmen "the average quotes, would be about \$91,000. The fencing and fence guards around the field and dugouts \$24,700. New sod and infield and outfield is approximately \$26,000 and restored wooden bleachers in the grandstands those bleachers we think are about 60 years old we would replace them with composite wood to stick with the historical nature of Evans field and the average quote for that was about \$98,000. So that's how we got to \$239,000."

TOBY ARSENIAN, 95 Granite Street asked if any fund raising has been done for this project.

PAUL MURPHY, Responds that it is town owned property and no fundraising needs to be done.

Action: The motion was seconded, there was discussion the floor and the **motion carried with 184 in favor and 42 opposed.**

Third, \$31,800 to be expended under the oversight of the Department of Public Works, working with the Community Preservation Committee and the Rockport Historical Commission, for the restoration, rehabilitation, and preservation of the Historic Freight Crane at the railroad station, 17 Railroad Avenue, Rockport, and to enhance the safety, historic integrity, and appearance of the Freight Crane and its immediate surroundings;

Third Motion: TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Third motion, Mr. Moderator, CPC Vice Chair Ruth George moves at \$31,800 be appropriated and transferred from the community preservation historic preservation reserve account to be expended under the oversight of the Department of Public Works working with the community preservation committee in the Rockport Historical Commission for the restoration rehabilitation and preservation of the historic freight crane at the railroad station 17 railroad Ave Rockport and to enhance the safety historic integrity and appearance of the freight crane and its immediate surroundings. Board of Selectmen and Community Preservation Committee support this project.

TOWN CLERK: Seconded.

MODERATOR: Moved and seconded.

RUTH GEORGE, Describes the history and restoration of the freight crane at the railroad station.

ZENAS SEPPALA, 92 Granite Street, Asked what needs to be restored and mentioned if could theoretically run again.

RUTH GEORGE, Replied that it's not going to be operational it will just be enhanced so it won't deteriorate anymore.

JAMES WOLAHAN, 24 Doctors Run, Asked what we are going to get for \$31,800 and if it's going to be enough for the crane be maintained for a long period of time.

ERIC HUTCHINS, 45 Pools Lane, Responded to questions: \$6,500 will be spent on national registered documentation through the State. \$5,000 will be spent on historic interpretive signage. They hope to put an edge around it, clean up the unsafe parts and stabilize the metal to retain future deterioration.

TOBY ARSENIAN, 95 Granite Street, Asked if money was requested from the MBTA.

ERIC HUTCHINS, Responded that no money has been asked for at this time, but to get it on the national historic register will make it easier to request funding.

Action: The motion was seconded, there was discussion on the floor and the **motion carried with 156 in favor and 72 opposed.**

Fourth, \$46,000 as a grant to the Sandy Bay Historical Society, Inc., a nonprofit corporation duly organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to be expended under the oversight of the Board of Selectmen working with the Community Preservation Committee, for the restoration, rehabilitation and historic preservation of the historic blacksmith shop at the

Old Castle, at 2-4 Castle Lane, Rockport, and, as may be necessary, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept a preservation restriction on said building in connection therewith;

Fourth Motion: TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Mr. Moderator CPC Vice Chair Ruth George moves that \$46,000 be appropriated and transferred from the community preservation historic preservation reserve account as a grant to the Sandy Bay Historical Society Incorporated, a non-profit corporation duly organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to be expended under the oversight of the Board of Selectmen working with the Community Preservation Committee for the restoration rehabilitation and historic preservation of the historic blacksmith shop at the old castle at 2-4 castle lane in Rockport and as may be necessary to authorize the board selectmen to accept a preservation restriction on said building in connection there with. Board of Selectmen and Community Preservation Committee support this article.

TOWN CLERK: Seconded.

MODERATOR: Moved and seconded.

RUTH GEORGE, Describes the history and restoration of the Old Castle Shed.

Action: The motion was seconded, there was no discussion and **the motion carried with 172 in favor and 53 opposed.**

Fifth, \$140,000 as a grant to Harborlight Community Partners, a nonprofit corporation duly organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to be expended under the oversight of the Board of Selectmen working with the Community Preservation Committee, for the creation, construction, and establishment of affordable community housing at 5 Granite Street, Rockport;

Fifth Motion: TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Mr. Moderator CPC Vice Chair Ruth George moves that \$100,000 be appropriated and transferred from the community preservation community housing reserve and that \$40,000 from the community preservation undesignated account as a grant to Harborlight Community Partners, a non-profit corporation duly organized into the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to be expended under the oversight of the Board of Selectmen working with the Community Preservation Committee for the creation, construction and establishment of affordable community housing at 5 Granite Street Rockport. Board of Selectmen and Community Preservation Committee support this project.

TOWN CLERK: Seconded.

MODERATOR: Moved and seconded.

RUTH GEORGE, Describes the grant funding to be used for Harborlight Community Partners.

TOBY ARSENIAN: 95 Granite Street. Toby spoke of his concerns and reservations about the buildings and asks what percent of the units are reserved for Rockport residents, he also asked if the DPW spared the fees that are charged for water and sewer hookups.

RUTH GEORGE: Replied that they don't know the percentage for Rockport residents, but they will get some type of preference.

JIM GARDNER: Chairman of the DPW commissioners, Responded that Harborlight did ask for sewer connection fee to be eliminated or reduced. They responded no, due to the extensive sewer problem in town.

JANE O'MALEY: 63 Pigeon Hill Street. Requested the exact number of Rockport residents that will receive preference on the housing.

RUTH GEORGE: Responded that it will be determined by the Board of Selectmen, the state and Harborlight.

DENISE DONNELLY: Responded that they may allocate only up to 70% of the units to the community's residents.

THERESA RISOLO: 4 Summit Avenue. Asked if the Selectmen requested the preference and if so where is it documented. And how much more money will be needed for this project.

PAUL MURPHY: 21 Pleasant Street. Talked of how we need to create affordable housing for young people with school aged children.

JIM CREAMER: 69 South Street. In favor of the affordable housing. Wants to see more money go towards affordable housing.

DENISE DONNELLY: 72 Pigeon Hill Street. Agreed with the affordable housing and said the Board of Selectmen will make Harborlight aware that Rockport residents want preference.

RONALD STEVENS: 103 Marmion Way. Provided statistics on population and does not think affordable housing will populate the school systems.

LYNN CHAMBERS: 11 Eden Road. Did not agree with any of the money that was passed for the funding of ball field, crane or blacksmith shop.

ELEANOR GOLDMAN: 13 Pleasant Street. In favor of the affordable housing.

Action: The motion was seconded, there was a lot of discussion on the floor and **the motion carried with 196 in favor and 38 opposed.**

Sixth, \$150,000 to be expended under the direction of the Director of Public Works and DPW Commissioners working with the Community Preservation Committee, for the restoration, rehabilitation and historic preservation of the exterior of the historic Pigeon Cove Fire Station at 118 Granite Street, Rockport;

Sixth Motion: TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Mr. Moderator, CPC Vice Chair Ruth George moves that \$150,000 be appropriated and transferred from the community preservation undesignated account and be expended under the direction of the director of public works and DPW commissioners. Working with the community preservation committee for the restoration, rehabilitation and historic preservation of the exterior of the historic Pigeon Cove Fire Station at 118 Granite Street, Rockport. Board of Selectmen and community preservation committee support this motion.

TOWN CLERK: Seconded.

MODERATOR: Moved and seconded.

RUTH GEORGE: Described the history and restoration of The Pigeon Cove Fire Station.

TOBY ARSENIAN: 95 Granite Street. Suggested the money be used for a new location.

HERMAN LILJA: Responded that the CPC money can be used for historical purposes only.

Action: The motion was seconded, there was some discussion and the motion **carried with 185 in favor and 52 opposed.**

Seventh, \$100,000 to be expended under the direction of the Thacher & Straitsmouth Islands Town Committee, working with the Community Preservation Committee, for the restoration, rehabilitation and preservation of the historic South Tower on Thacher Island, Rockport;

Seventh Motion: TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Mr. Moderator CPC Vice Chair Ruth George moves that \$100,000 be appropriated and transferred from the community preservation undesignated account and be expended under the direction of the Thatcher and Straitsmouth Islands town committee working with the community preservation committee for the restoration rehabilitation and preservation of the historic South Tower on Thatcher Island. Board of Selectmen and community preservation committee support this article.

TOWN CLERK: Seconded.

MODERATOR: Moved and seconded.

RUTH GEORGE: Describes the history and restoration of the Historic South Tower on Thatcher Island.

Action: The motion was seconded, there was no discussion and the **motion carried with 219 in favor and 17 opposed.**

Eighth, \$334,000 as a grant to The Rockport Baptist Church, a nonprofit corporation duly organized under the laws of Massachusetts, to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen, working with the Community Preservation Committee, for the restoration, rehabilitation, and preservation of the steeple on the historic Rockport Baptist Church at 4 High Street, Rockport;

Eighth Motion: TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Mr. Moderator CPC Vice Chair Ruth George moves that \$334,000 be appropriated and transferred from the community preservation undesignated account as a grant to the Rockport Baptist church, a nonprofit corporation duly organized under the laws of Massachusetts to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen, working with the community preservation committee for the restoration rehabilitation and preservation of the steeple and bell on the historic Rockport Baptist church at 4 High Street, Rockport and as may be necessary to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept a preservation restriction on said building in connection there with. Board of Selectmen and community preservation committee support this motion

TOWN CLERK: Seconded.

MODERATOR: Moved and seconded.

RUTH GEORGE: Describes the history and restoration of The Rockport Baptist Church.

TERRY RISOLO: 4 Summit Avenue. Strongly opposed.

ALAN MACMILLAN: 18 Story Street. In favor of the restoration.

PETER GOODWIN: 6 North Road. In favor of the restoration.

LINDA MEDITZ: 98 Main Street. In favor of the restoration.

SAL DISTEFANO: 43 High Street. In favor of the restoration.

RUTH GEORGE: Described how \$870,940.65 has been spent on town church renovations under historic preservation.

Action: The motion was seconded, there was a lot of discussion on the floor and the **motion carried with 165 in favor and 68 opposed.**

ARTICLE 7 (G)

To see if the Town will request that the Board of Selectmen vote pursuant to MGL c.59, §5C, the residential tax exemption, for the upcoming tax rate at the maximum 35% for the assessed value of all Class One residential parcels within Rockport, provided that such an exemption shall be applied only to the principal residence of a taxpayer as used by the taxpayer for income tax purposes.

(Non-Binding Citizen Petition) (Requires majority vote)

Motion: TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Mr. Moderator, lead petitioner John Penaloza moves that the town approve article G is printed in the September 12th 2022 town meeting warrant. Board of selectmen does not support this article.

TOWN CLERK: Seconded.

MODERATOR: Moved and seconded. This is non-binding by the way, we have a big agenda for tonight so we'll just take that into consideration.

JOHN PENALOZA: Gave a speech on the Residential Tax Exemption.

SARAH WILKINSON: Stated the Board of Selectmen had voted not to support the petition article and goes on to explain that The residential exemption was designed to shift the tax burden from modestly priced homes to higher priced and vacation homes. The amount of tax that needs to be paid by the town does not change it would just shift who pays more of it.

TOBY ARSENIAN: Asked for an explanation to why the article is non-binding.

TOWN COUNCIL: Stated that it is strictly given to the Board of Selectmen to decide whether or not to accept or apply the exemption and how much.

LISA MOONEY: 104 Long Beach. Asked if a property needs to be owner occupied on January 1st to qualify for the exemption.

ELIZABETH DUKES: Replied yes.

LAURIE MCKENNA: 31 High Street. Opposed.

ELIZABETH BROOKS: 44 Long Beach #3 Opposed.

RANDALL STEVENS: 103 Marmion Way. Opposed.

CHARLIE SEAVEY: 18 Frank Street. Spoke about how the working people of the town deserve a break and was in favor.

DENISE DONNELLY: 72 Pigeon Hill Street. In favor of finding a solution, but opposed to the residential tax exemption.

JUNE MICHAELS: 22 Landmark Lane. Asked how the tax rate is calculated.

PATRICIA BROWN: 27 Haven Avenue. Spoke about not being able to afford her taxes if they go up. Opposed.

ELIZABETH DUKES: Answered that the tax levy stays the same and the amount to be collected doesn't change, but the burden shifts and the exemption comes off the assessed value, everyone would pay the same rate and the rate will go up substantially.

CHRISSY ROBERTS: Popplestone Lane. Spoke about her concern that people will have to move out of the town if the taxes go up. Opposed.

MODERATOR: Reminded everyone that it is a non-binding article.

HEATHER CARBONE: 29 Long Beach Spoke about her concerns for the people that have homes on Long Beach.

ALAN MACMILLAN: 18 Story Street, made a motion to move the question.

MODERATOR: Okay, to move the question that's non-debatable it requires a two-thirds vote. Starting now. That motion carries 173 in favor and 47 opposed. Now we are going to vote on the original question. The original question was voted on and the motion failed.

Action: The motion was seconded, there was a lot of discussion on the floor and the original **motion failed with 54 in favor and 164 opposed.**

MODERATOR: Introduces Lori Kaiser, lets the audience know what articles are next, and explains that amendments need be submitted 48 hours before the meeting.

LORI KAISER: Chair of the Government and Bylaw Committee. Introduces the general code of bylaws to be reviewed.

ARTICLE 8 (H).

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Rockport Code of By-Laws to change the terms “Board of Selectmen” and “Selectmen” to the term “Select Board” as the terms appear throughout the entire Code of By-Laws; and further to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court for special legislation in order to change references to “Board of Selectmen” or “Selectmen” in any special acts regarding the Town to the term “Select Board,” or act on anything relative thereto. (Government and By-Law Committee) (Requires majority vote).

Motion: TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Mr. Moderator Government and By-law Committee Vice Chair Penny Pilzer moves that the town approve article H, as printed in the September 12, 2022 town meeting warrant. Board of Selectmen supports this article and Government and By-Law Committee reports favorably on this article.

TOWN CLERK: Seconded.

MODERATOR: Moved and seconded.

PENNY PILZER: Spoke about the name change of The Board of Selectmen to The Select Board.

Action: There was no discussion and the **motion carried with 65 in favor and 9 opposed.**

ARTICLE 9 (N).

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Rockport Code of By-Laws to correct all mistakes of grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and typographical errors as well as conform numerals and written numbers throughout the entire Code of By-Laws by authorizing the Government and By-Law Committee to make such changes as they deem necessary during the course of their ongoing By-Law c. 2 section 6 b (iv) review; said updates to be reported to Town Meeting on an ongoing basis throughout said review; or act on anything relative thereto. (Government and By-Law Committee) (Requires majority vote).

Motion: TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Mr. Moderator. Government and Bylaw Committee chair Lori Kaiser moves that the town approve article N as printed in the September 12, 2022 town meeting warrant. Board of Selectmen support this article and Government and By-Law Committee reports favorably on this article.

TOWN CLERK: Seconded.

MODERATOR: Moved in seconded.

LORI KAISER: Explains how the article will empower the Government Bylaw Committee to make minor changes to fix typos, spelling errors etc. without the need for town meeting.

Action: There was no discussion and the **motion carried with 70 in favor and 3 opposed.**

ARTICLE 10 (I).

Government & By-Law Committee Chair Lori Kaiser moves that the Town approve Article I as printed in the September 12, 2022 Town Meeting Warrant. *(majority vote)*

Motion: TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Mr. Moderator Government and By-Law Committee Chair Lori Kaiser moves that the town approve article I as printed in the September 12, 2022 town meeting warrant.

Board of Selectmen supports this article Government and Bylaw Committee reports favorably on this article.

TOWN CLERK: Seconded.

MODERATOR: Moved and seconded.

LORI KAISER: Introduces Article I and explains five of the changes to the bylaws.

(Voters Booklets with all proposed changes can be viewed in the Town Clerks office)

ALAN MACMILLAN: States we are going overboard with gender issues.

PATRICIA BROWN: Questioned who will enforce that the meeting minutes get done and where all of the paper minutes be kept or will they be digital.

LORI KAISER: Responds that is will all be electronic and it will be the committee's obligation to get the minutes in to the Clerk's office.

Action: There was some discussion and the **motion carried with 52 in favor and 14 opposed.**

ARTICLE 11 (J).

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Rockport Code of By-Laws, CHAPTER 2, Town Meetings, §§ 1 through 6, as set forth below, specific only to the amendments indicated with strikethrough text to be deleted and new text to be inserted shown in bold. (Government and By-Law) (Requires majority vote):

Motion: TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Mr. Moderator article J Government and Bylaw Committee member Charlie Seavey moves that the town approve article J as printed in the September 12, 2022 town meeting warrant Board of Selectmen support this article and Government and Bylaw Committee report favorably on this article.

TOWN CLERK: Seconded.

MODERATOR: Moved and seconded.

(Voters Booklets with all proposed changes can be viewed in the Town Clerks office)

CHARLES SEAVEY: Spoke about article J.

JONATHAN RING: 9 Pools Lane. Asked why the word 'church' is being removed from the wording 'church bells' in the bylaws.

CHARLES SEAVEY: Responded that the word church will be taken out to get religion out of it.

LINDA MEDITZ: Asked if there are any other bells in town besides church bells.

MODERATOR: Responded that at present there are only church bells.

PETER VANDEMARK: 12 Bay Ridge Lane. Points out a typographical error with the Select Board terminology.

MODERATOR: Explains that the Articles have to go to the state before they are enacted.

Action: There was some discussion and the **motion carried with 58 in favor and 6 opposed.**

ARTICLE 12 (K).

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Rockport Code of By-Laws, CHAPTER 3, Elected Officers, as set forth below, specific only to the amendments indicated with strikethrough text to be deleted and new text to be inserted shown in bold. (Government and By-Law) (Requires majority vote):

Motion: TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Mr. Moderator Government and Bylaw Committee member Charlie Seavey moves that the town approve Article K as printed in the September 12, 2022 town meeting warrant Board of Selectmen supports this article and Government and Bylaw Committee reports favorably on this article.

TOWN CLERK: Seconded.

MODERATOR: Moved and seconded.

(Voters Booklets with all proposed changes can be viewed in the Town Clerks office)

CHARLES SEAVEY: Explains Article K.

TOBY ARSENIAN: 95 Granite Street. States his concern for people whom do not have access or ability to use a computer. He also moved to delete the specific wording “except that such a date may be delayed in a state of emergency in the manner prescribed by law” from article K.

TOWN COUNSEL: Darren Klein KP law, Explained that it would not have any bearing if the governor by a special act or special legislation decides to empower cities and towns to delay the election, because of a state of emergency. In his opinion Toby's amendment would have no legal standing at all.

PATRICIA BROWN: 27 Haven Ave. Agreed with Toby's amendment.

JONATHAN RING: 9 Pools Lane. Asked if the meeting requires 150 people for a quorum.

The moderator responded that no quorum is needed.

MODERATOR: All those in favor of this amendment to take out those words press 1 or A, and all those opposed press 2 or B. **That motion fails. Yes 23 and no 34.**

TOBY ARSENIAN: 95 Granite Street. Moved to delete the words “unless otherwise voted by the Board of Selectmen at least 30 days prior to the date of the election.” He stated his concerns that to change the times is unreasonable.

PAT BROWN: 27 Haven Avenue. Agreed with Toby's amendment. She thinks the poll times should stay the same.

LAURIE MCKENNA: 31 High Street. Asked why the committee wanted to include this wording.

TOWN COUNSEL: Darren Klein, KP law. Responded that the purpose of the amendment is to give the Selectmen the flexibility to change the hours if necessary, so as many people as possible can vote.

TOWN CLERK: Stated that she believes the polling hours should stay the same and be consistent with both state and federal voting hours.

MODERATOR: All those in favor of Toby's amendment press 1 or A and all those opposed press 2 or B. That **motion passes 48 to 15**. Now back to this motion as amended with those words stricken. If you are in favor of this motion press 1 for A and if you are opposed press 2 f or B. That **motion passes 55 to 4** and we now move on to article L.

Action: The motion was seconded. Discussion followed.

A motion was made by Toby Arsenian of 95 Granite St, and seconded, to delete the line added “**except that such date may be delayed in a state of emergency in the manner provided by law**” from Chapter 3. Section 1. There was discussion. The motion failed with 23 in favor and 34 opposed.

A second motion was made by Toby Arsenian of 95 Granite St, and seconded, to delete the line added “**unless otherwise voted by the Board of Selectmen at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the election,**” from Chapter 3. Section 1. There was discussion. The motion carried with 48 in favor and 15 opposed.

The original Article, as amended, **carried with 55 in favor and 4 opposed**.

ARTICLE 13 (L).

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Rockport Code of By-Laws, CHAPTER 7, Finances and Fiscal Procedures, Sections: A. Budget and Fiscal Procedures, B. Records and Reports, C. Tax Title Land and D. Land Bank Fund, as set forth below, specific only to the amendments indicated with strikethrough text to be deleted and new text to be inserted shown in bold. (Government and By-Law) (Requires majority vote):

Motion: TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Mr. Moderator Government and Bylaw Committee vice chair Penny Pilzer moves that the town approve article L is printed in the September 12, 2022 town meeting warrant Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee support this article Government and Bylaw Committee reports favorably on this article.

TOWN CLERK: seconded.

MODERATOR: moved and seconded.

(Voters Booklets with all proposed changes can be viewed in the Town Clerks office)

PENNY PILZER: Introduces and explains the Article L.

ALAN MACMILLAN: 18 Story Street. Was not in favor of the elimination of “publishing in the school newspaper” and moved to have the amendment added back in.

MODERATOR: The Government Bylaw Committee waived any objection as to the timeliness of that amendment, so we'll hear the amendment. Any objection to restoring the language published in a local newspaper? In addition to the other language? **That amendment passed by unanimous vote.** Now we have the local newspaper back. You have heard the motion as amended including published in a local

newspaper. All those in favor of this press 1 or A. That **carries 53 to 1.**

Action: The motion was seconded. Discussion followed.

A motion was made by Alan MacMillan of 18 Story St, to add back in “be published in a local newspaper” that had been stricken from Chapter 7. Section 2. a. The amendment passed by a unanimous voice vote.

A motion was then made to vote on the Article, as amended, and **carried with 53 in favor and 1 opposed.**

ARTICLE 14 (M).

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Rockport Code of By-Laws to update and/or standardize all state and federal citations as well as update the names of state and federal agencies as they appear throughout the entire Code of By-Laws by authorizing the Government and By-Law Committee to make such updates as they deem necessary during the course of their ongoing By-Law c. 2, § 6 b (iv) review ; said updates to be reported to Town Meeting on an ongoing basis throughout said review; or act on anything relative thereto. (Government and By-Law Committee) (Requires majority vote).

Motion: TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Mr. Moderate. Government and Bylaw Committee chair Lori Kaiser moves at the town of prove article M as printed in the September 12, 2022 town meeting warrant. Board of Selectmen support this article Government and Bylaw Committee reports favorably.

TOWN CLERK: Seconded

MODERATOR: Moved and seconded.

MODERATOR: Called for a vote. **Motion carried, unanimously.**

Action: The motion was seconded, there was no discussion and the **motion carried with 52 in favor and 1 opposed.**

The moderator then called for a vote to dissolve the meeting, which was seconded. The motion carried, unanimously.

The 2022 Fall Town Meeting dissolved at 9:01pm

In Summary, all articles, with the exception or Article 7 (G), of the September 12, 2022 Fall Special Town Meeting favorably passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kourtney A. Buchanan

Assistant Town Clerk